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Agenda item 13 (a)
Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Maldives:* draft resolution

Review of United Nations support for small island developing States

The Economic and Social Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/17 of 29 July 2009 on the review of United Nations support for small island developing States,

Taking note of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its twelfth session (E/2010/33) and background paper No. 10 (ST/ESA/2010/CDP/10) containing the independent views and perspectives of the Committee for Development Policy on United Nations support for small island developing States,

Recalling that the independent views and perspectives of the Committee for Development Policy, together with a summary of the consideration of the issue by the Economic and Social Council, should form an important contribution to the two-day high-level review, to be conducted during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, of the progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States,

Recognizing that small island developing States have their own peculiar vulnerabilities and characteristics, including environmental vulnerability, small size and diseconomies of scale, and trade and external economic dependence, which make the difficulties they face in the pursuit of sustainable development particularly severe and complex,

* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

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Taking note of key conclusions of the Committee for Development Policy, including: that the revised Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[1] should be more focused on sustainability issues related to the small size of small island developing States and their vulnerability to environmental, climatic and external economic shocks, that the Mauritius Strategy should include targets and milestones which would facilitate the proper monitoring of the Strategy and of United Nations support for it; that data availability should be improved and an effective tool for monitoring United Nations support developed; that the respective mandates of the two central bodies supporting small island developing States, the Small Island Developing States Unit in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, should be clarified and adequate resources provided to them; that a system for monitoring the nature, extent and effectiveness of support by the international community for small island developing States should be established; and that small island developing States should better document their own efforts to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[2]

Taking note, in particular, of the conclusion of the Committee for Development Policy that, at present, there is no formal United Nations category of small island developing States based on objective criteria, and that improved focus and effective monitoring of the Mauritius Strategy would require the establishment of an agreed list of small island developing States based on consistent, objective and transparent criteria,

1. *Decides* to make available the independent views and perspectives of the Committee for Development Policy, together with a summary of the debate held during the present substantive session, as a contribution to the two-day high-level review, to be conducted during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, of the progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States;

2. *Requests* that Member States and United Nations organs and bodies involved in the review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States[1] take the independent views and perspectives of the Committee for Development Policy into consideration, together with the summary of the debate held during the present substantive session;

3. *Invites* the Committee for Development Policy to submit to the Economic and Social Council before May 2011, for the consideration of Member States, its independent views and perspectives on consistent, objective and specific criteria for identification of a formal United Nations category of small island developing States

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[1] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[2] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

that would allow United Nations support for small island developing States to be more targeted, cost-efficient, measurable and effective, and would thus better address the unique vulnerabilities of those States and promote their sustainable development.